

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment, including :

- bony anchoring members, such as pedicular screws (1) or hooks, whereof at least one comprises a proximal threaded stud (6) intended for receiving a nut (4) and a base portion (7) intended for anchoring to a vertebra ;
- one or two linking rods (2), intended to be connected to these anchoring members and to be attached to the vertebrae by these anchoring members,
- parts (3) for connecting this(these) linking rod(s) (2) to these anchoring members, and
- extension pieces (5) intended for engaging on the proximal stud(s) (6) of the anchoring member(s) for running down connecting parts (3) on this or these proximal stud(s) (6) until they rest on the proximal zone(s) (17) of the base portion(s) (7) of the anchoring members ;

equipment characterized in that the proximal stud (6) of at least one anchoring member and the extension piece (5) intended to be used with this anchoring member include positioning means (12, 32) enabling to position the extension piece (5) on the free end of the proximal stud (6), concentrically thereto, these positioning means (12, 32) being such that the extension piece (5) comprises an end distal portion (30) whereof the external diameter is sized in order to let through the nut (4) thereon.

2. (original) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 1, characterized in that said positioning means comprise a rod (12) integral with the proximal stud (6) or of the extension piece (5) and a bore (32) provided, respectively, in the extension piece (5) or the proximal stud (6), whereas this rod (12) may be engaged in this bore (32).

3. (currently amended) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, characterized in that said positioning means comprise means enabling axial connection of the proximal stud (6) with the extension piece (5).

4. (original) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 3, characterized in that the proximal stud (6) comprises a threaded proximal rod (12), and said end distal portion (30) of the extension piece (5) comprises a tapered hole (32) for screwing the extension piece (5) on this proximal rod (12).

5. (currently amended) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the extension piece (5) is, outside said end distal portion (30), of flexible structure.

6. (original) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 5, characterized in that said flexible structure is in the form of a metal wire wound into a spiral.

7. (original) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 6, characterized in that the spires of said metal wire are contiguous.

8. (currently amended) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in

that said end distal portion (30) is threaded so that it enables to screw the nut (4) thereon.

9. (new) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 2, characterized in that said positioning means comprise means enabling axial connection of the proximal stud (6) with the extension piece (5).

10. (new) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 2, characterized in that the extension piece (5) is, outside said end distal portion (30), of flexible structure.

11. (new) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 3, characterized in that the extension piece (5) is, outside said end distal portion (30), of flexible structure.

12. (new) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 4, characterized in that the extension piece (5) is, outside said end distal portion (30), of flexible structure.